

RICHARD (Dick) SMITH

**2008 Recipient of the Wilbur H. Peck
Referee – Emeritus Recognition**

Richard (Dick) Smith was born in Corvallis, Oregon, on June 1, 1921. At the age of three, Dick contacted Infantile Paralysis prompting his parents to immediately relocate to Three Rivers, California that had a sanitarium specializing in curing such ailments as Polio. Dick recovery took several years and by the time he entered high school, he was able to participate in football, basketball and track & field. The sporting world became his passion and was basically responsible for his total recovery from the inflicted paralysis.

Upon graduation from High School, Dick entered the military. It was at this juncture of his life that the military service provided a valuable background that led him to an illustrious USVBA career of 32 years as a certified referee, retiring from the national scene following the 2003-2004 season. Dick served in the United States Army during World War II from 1942-1945 and then again from 1948-1968, retiring with the rank of Major. Following his military service, Dick joined the National Capital Police department in 1968, retiring with the rank of Sergeant in 1983.

While in the Army, Dick was fortunate enough between the three wars (WWII, Korea & Vietnam) to participate in a number of sports, providing him with sufficient playing experience that greatly assisted him in transitioning into a sports officiating career. As a military referee, he learned the rules of play and their applications. While assigned to Fort Belvoir, Virginia at the end of his military career, Dick's intramural volleyball officiating experience led him to a volleyball meeting conducted by Joe Sharpless. Thus, the beginning of Dick's membership in Region 3 and ultimately as a USVBA Regional referee.

Following three years of working as a regional official, Sharpless suggested that Dick attend a national tournament to pursue his national rating. Dick obtained his national patch at the 1976 Schenectady, New York championships embarking on three plus decades of officiating volleyball at its highest domestic level.

Dick's volleyball officiating experience included obtaining his National Scorekeeper certification, his NAGWS/PAVO State Rating, an NCAA Certification and High School Certifications in Maryland, Virginia and California.

As happens with many talented USVBA volunteers, more opportunities are requested for one's services and Dick became involved not only locally and regionally, but nationally and internationally:

- Dick was appointed Assistant Vice President – Technical Development Division – for the USVBA Rules of the Game Commission from 1981-1987;
- Dick was Commissioner of the Chesapeake Region over a 17 year period;
- Dick conducted the 1979 CoEd National Championships;
- Dick served as secretary to the USVBA Rules of the Game Commission;

Dick's talents led him to the publication arena; highlighted by his 11 year career as editor of the USVBA Guide; a 13 year career as editor of the USVBA Rules of the Game Manual and was the original compiler and editor of the Volleyball Casebook from 1979-1994.

Dick's officiating career not only spanned the globe, but provided a varied landscape of volleyball activity as illustrated on the screen:

Armed Forces League Championships, 1949-1956

USVBA Adult National Championships, 1976-2004

National Nudist Championships, (1978)

National Championships for **Disabled Persons**, (1980)

World Deaf Championships, (1980)

All-Army (1980 & 1983), All-Marine and Armed Forces Championships

Special Olympics Washington, DC 1982-2002

Mixed Six National Championships, (1983)

World Masters Championships, Oregon, USA, 1992

Special Olympic World Summer Games, 1999(USA) and 2003 (Ireland)

International Exhibition matches in USA 1975 - 1990

Gold Medal match, 75/O, USA Open, 1999

Gold Medal match, 70/O, USA Open, 2004

National AAU/JOV Championships, 4-years

Gay National Championships, (1981)

NIRSA National Championships, (1984)

Because of Dick's length of service and quality of leadership and expertise, he has been honored and humbled with several deserving awards and recognitions:

USVBA Honorable Mention, 1956

George J. Fisher Leader in Volleyball Award. 1979

USVBA Special Recognition Award as Newsletter Editor 1979

"Doc" Booth Commissioner's Award. 1989

President's Special Recognition; Editor USVBA Official Guide & Rule Book, 1990

Glen G Davies Referee Service Award. 1993

Chesapeake Region Leader in Volleyball Award. 1993

USA Volleyball Official's Division Recognition for 30 years as a USVBA Championship Referee. 2004

Dick's summarizes his USA Volleyball service with the following observations, "The opportunities that accrued to me as the result of my volleyball officiating experiences far exceeded any of my expectations. It has provided me a platform to make new friends and travel throughout the USA and foreign countries."

Tonight, YOU, Dick Smith are center stage, at this wonderful awards and recognition banquet, for all of your wonderful officiating accomplishments and selfless service that you have given to USA Volleyball. Congratulations on such a productive and fulfilling second career.